The USA and European countries were maintaining certain quantitive restrictions on textile items under the erstwhile 'Multi-Fibre Agreement'. However, in the "agreement on Textile and Clothing" of WTO, such restrictions are likely to be removed in the year 2005.

Export of Agricultural Products

†2470. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether incentives are given for the export of agricultural products from the country;

(b) if so, the amount of export made during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and till December 1999; and

(c) the year-wise percentage of export of wheat, rice, sugar, cotton, oilseeds, pulses and coarse grain in such exports, separately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The value of agro items exported including marine products, tea, coffee, caster oil and cotton including waste during the last three years is as below:

1997-98	Rs. 23798.37 crores
1998-99	Rs. 25224.63 crores
1999-2000 April-Dec.	Rs. 18207.80 crores

(c) The year-wise percentage of export of wheat, rice, sugar, cotton, oilseeds, pulses and coarse grains to that of total agricultural exports is as follows :

Percentage to total agro export

Commodity	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Wheat	—	—	—
Rice	13.8	24.6	12.9
Sugar	1.0	0.1	—
Cotton	1.0	0.9	0.4
Oilseeds	3.7	1.8	1.8
Pulses	1.5	0.9	1.7
Coarse grains	—	0.1	—

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.